



2004 All-America City Award Application

All communities are encouraged to apply.

Community Information

Community name and state:

Stockton, California

Your community is applying as a:

☐ Neighborhood ☐ Town ☒ City ☐ County ☐ Region

If applying as a region, name participating communities:

If applying as a neighborhood, name city:

Contact Information

All-America City Award contact (primary contact person available throughout entire competition and for follow-up):

Name: Florence Low

Title: Program Manager III

Organization: City of Stockton

Address: 425 North El Dorado Street

City, State, ZIP: Stockton, CA, 95202

Phone (business/day): (209) 937-8279

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E-mail Address: Florence.Low@ci.stockton.ca.us

List the 3 individuals who most actively participated in filling out this All-America City Award application (add additional lines if needed):
(Provide name and title; organization; phone; e-mail address)

Karisa Cloward, Administrative Aide II; City of Stockton; (209) 937-8212; Karisa.Cloward@ci.stockton.ca.us

Angelina Campos-Rosenthal, Director of Family Resource Centers; Community Partnership for Families; (209) 608-0452; acampos@cpfsj.org

Peggy Massey, Director of Business and Economic Development; Downtown Stockton Alliance; (209) 464-5246; pmassey@downtownstockton.org

The community applying will receive one complimentary membership (or a membership renewal if an AAC application was submitted last year) to the National Civic League for one year. To whom should this membership be directed?

Name	City Manager Mark Lewis		
Address	425 North El Dorado Street		
City, State, Zip Code	Stockton, CA 95202		
Phone Number	(209) 937-8212	Fax	(209) 937-7149
Email	city.manager@ci.stockton.ca.us		

If we are designated an All-America City, we agree to follow NCL's rules (available on the Web site) regarding use of the All-America City Award logo, a registered trademark of the National Civic League.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name: Mark Lewis **Title:** City Manager, City of Stockton

Community Statistics

Note: Use the most up-to-date statistics possible for your neighborhood, town, city, county, or region (*source suggestions:* U.S. Census Bureau, State Department of Economic Security, State Department of Finance, Department of Public Health, and local school statistics)

POPULATION (*in year 2000 or most recent*): 258,259

Source/Date: United States Census Bureau American Communitiy Survey Profile/2002

POPULATION PERCENTAGE CHANGE 1990-2000 (indicate + or -): +15.6 %

Source/Date: United States Census Bureau/2000

RACIAL/ETHNIC POPULATION BREAKDOWN (*percentage*):

White alone	43.3 %
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	32.5 %
Black or African American alone	11.2 %
Asian alone	19.9 %
American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) alone	1.1 %
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOP) alone	0.4 %
Some other race alone	17.3 %

Two or more races 6.8 %

Source/Date: United States Census Bureau/2000

MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME: \$ 47,500

Source/Date: Department of Housing and Urban Development/ 2002

PERCENTAGE OF FAMILIES BELOW POVERTY LEVEL: 18.9 %

Source/Date: United States Census Bureau/2000

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: 11.8 %

Source/Date: State of California Employment Development Department/2002

POPULATION BREAKDOWN BY AGE GROUP (*percentages, if available*):

19 years old and under 36.0 %

20-24 8.6 %

25-44 26.3 %

45-64 20.4 %

65 and over 8.7 %

Source/Date: United States Census Bureau/2001

PERCENTAGE OF HOME OWNERSHIP: 51.6 %

Source/Date: United States Census Bureau/2000

WORKFORCE DISTRIBUTION -- Name the three largest employment sectors in your community and provide the percentage of total employed in each:

Educational, Health and Social Services	21.8	%
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Retail Trade	11.7	%
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Manufacturing	10.9	%
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Source/Date: United States Census Bureau/2000

Part I: Community Background and Community Challenge Section

Add lines as needed for your responses

1 (A). Community Background: Set the background for your community. Tell its story. Summarize your community's history, successes and struggles. Describe how your community got to where it is today and your community's current state of affairs. (700 word maximum)

One of the earliest municipalities in Gold Rush California, Stockton was founded in 1849 by German immigrant Charles M. Weber. Captain Weber realized that true wealth lay in providing for the rush of gold-seekers from all over the world who travelled inland along the thousands of miles of San Joaquin Delta waterways connecting Stockton to the Pacific Ocean. In its early years, Stockton's strategic location made it one of the most important cities in California, and as home to immigrants from 70 countries, one of the most diverse cities in the nation. As the Gold Rush years waned, Stockton became an agricultural hub thanks to the rich peat soil of the San Joaquin Valley. During the latter half of the 19th century the population exploded as Stockton became home to railroads, farm equipment manufacturing, a leading grain industry, and a large Chinese community.

The town modernized with the advent of the 20th century, as irrigation tripled the number of farms in San Joaquin County, streets were paved, Italian immigrants flowed in, and the five sloughs running through town were filled in. World War I brought economic prosperity for farmers and manufacturers, especially those involved in the production of military vehicles. A few years later College of the Pacific (now University of the Pacific), California's first chartered university, moved to Stockton from San Jose.

Stockton struggled during the Depression years, and at the same time received an influx of Filipino immigrants. But the town bounced back at the advent of World War II, as Stockton's booming shipbuilding industry became a major military supplier. The Port of Stockton, Rough and Ready Island, and Stockton's airport also had important roles in the war effort.

The 1970s brought thousands of Southeast Asian immigrants in the aftermath of the Vietnam War. This population boom, in combination with other problems, made the 1980s and early 1990s a period of high unemployment and general economic stagnation. Violent crime rates rose dramatically, and in 1989 a school yard shooting left five children dead and 34 others injured. A polarized, ineffectual city government seemed unable to act. In a city that had always prided itself on its rich ethnic and cultural mix, tensions grew.

The community was ready for change. Through a hard fought voter-approved reorganization of the City Council electoral process, the Council emerged as a highly respected and effective governing body. Equally important, increasingly assertive grass roots groups began to organize in earnest, making significant contributions to the safety and redevelopment of their communities. Various collaboratives emerged, connecting community organizations and public agencies to address long-term solutions to specific problem areas, such as economic development, the educational achievement of youth, and the health of the community.

Today, as in the past, Stockton is defined by its geography and its people. The Port of Stockton and the industries that use it remain a major source of jobs for our residents, our waterfront has become a popular gathering spot and event center, and our delta provides a wealth of recreational opportunities. The cultural, economic, and recreational heart of our community is tied to the water.

In recent years, Stockton's affordable housing (we are the only city to meet the State of California's Affordable Housing Mandate) has made it a destination for San Francisco Bay Area workers who are looking for a less expensive yet proximate alternative to living in the pricey Bay Area. In response, several new housing developments have sprung up, and the Altamont Commuter Express, completed in 1998, has made commuting between Stockton and the Bay Area much easier.

Throughout the years, Stockton has drawn immigrants from around the world, and this trend continues today. Most recently, we find an increasing number of migrant farm workers living and working in Stockton and the surrounding area, attracted to the jobs produced by the region's rich agricultural land. With these new immigrants added to the mix, Stockton represents California's diversity in the future. Our challenge is to ensure that all our residents feel a strong connection to and take an active interest in Stockton.

Our community has been through many changes over the years, but we believe that today our residents are proud to call Stockton home.

1 (B). Community Celebration: Why should your community be selected as an All-America City? Describe what makes your community a great place to live, work, and play. (300 word maximum)

Strategically positioned in the heart of California and the Central Valley, Stockton offers a comfortable, affordable lifestyle without the congestion, overcrowding, and expense of some of its neighbors. Members of our many ethnic groups are dispersed widely throughout our residential neighborhoods, an advantage as we work to incorporate our immigrant communities into city life. In 2002, Sunset Magazine ranked Stockton one of six of "The West's Best Places to Live," and, with over 100,000 trees, as the "Best Tree City" in the western United States.

Located on an incredible inland seaport, Stockton is the seat of the fifth largest agricultural county in the country. Although historically an agriculturally-based economy, recently Stockton has diversified into many areas of industry and business, and is rapidly becoming an integral part of the Bay Area economy. Residents now find a wealth of opportunities in every employment sector. The city's several higher educational institutions help mold tomorrow's workforce and community leaders, including the University of the Pacific, California State University Stanislaus – Stockton Campus, San Joaquin Delta College, and Humphreys College and School of Law.

Stockton's downtown, once nearly abandoned, now boasts outstanding recreational opportunities that draw residents by the thousands, including a professional baseball team, a Children's Museum, and an array of events and watersports on the Delta. The popular Asparagus Festival, which draws over 100,000 people annually, moves downtown this year.

There are many cultural opportunities, both artistic and ethnic, that help bind our diverse community members together. Residents enjoy a range of music, theater, dance, and literary events. The city has its own symphony and opera company, and plays host to nearly 20 ethnic festivals throughout the year.

Most importantly, residents, businesses, community groups, and local government work together in the spirit of cooperation, making Stockton deserving of the All-America City title.

1 (C). Community Challenges: Based upon your community's current status, describe your community's two most pressing challenges.

Challenge #1: *(200 words maximum)*

Stockton is an extremely diverse community with large low-income and immigrant populations. Historically, many of our neediest citizens have found that accessing a wide variety of services is difficult, if not impossible; those most in need of help are also those most likely to get lost in the system. In San Joaquin County 15 percent of the population aged 0 to 64 is uninsured, 10 percent of students do not graduate high school, and 20 percent of children in grades K-12 are English Language Learners. In the past we were unable to improve these numbers because the existing system of services was fragmented, with little collaboration between agencies and a lack of sufficient support to address ethnic, cultural, and socioeconomic differences.

Our challenge is to create a comprehensive, seamless system of services that supports the creation of strong and resourceful families and communities. We want families who take an active role in shaping solutions to their problems by becoming economically self-sufficient, investing in the well-being of their children, and contributing to the communities in which they live. We also recognize that it is our duty as a community to provide the support systems to enable families to meet this goal.

Challenge #2: *(200 words maximum)*

Downtown Stockton was once a vibrant regional economic hub, but suburban flight relegated downtown to a home for City and County government offices and financial institutions. A professional workforce of 20,000 filled downtown Monday through Friday, but evenings and weekends left it deserted. Some of Downtown's remaining residents – those in need of low cost housing, General Relief residents, and parolees – often occupied single residency hotels, which faced the high crime rates historically associated with such housing. Downtown is home to a large number of vacant and rundown buildings, and has long been saddled with a poor image due to historic crime patterns and a perceived lack of public safety. While the reality has changed dramatically over the last decade, as evidenced by a 52 percent reduction in crime rates, the perception lingers.

The first challenge has been to raise the level of awareness regarding revitalization of downtown through a property-based improvement district. The second challenge has been to create partnership programs that enhance and improve downtown's image and its ability to attract new investment while maintaining existing business. The

third challenge has been to honor the historic fabric of downtown and once again make it a community gathering spot.

Part II: Community-Driven Projects

Add lines as needed for your responses

Part II requires descriptions of three collaborative community projects that have significantly affected the community.

The first two projects should be drawn directly from the two community challenges stated above.

The third project should be reflective of what your community is doing for children and youth.

PROJECT ONE (Challenge #1)

1. Project summary, name and give a brief description. (150 word maximum)

Community Partnership for Families is a partnership of neighborhood groups, faith-based organizations, schools, businesses, and public and private health, social service, criminal justice and municipal agencies. The Partnership, a nonprofit, operates three family resource centers in underserved areas of Stockton, which serve as platforms for integrated service teams. Integrated service team members work together in a collaborative and integrated fashion and include home-visiting public health workers, child protective services agents, employment specialists, tutors, police and probation officers, mental health and gang outreach workers, parent advocates, and school counselors, among others. A family can either take advantage of a center's individual services, or can be matched with a specially-designed team that will work with them to meet all of their identified needs. Family resource centers support the co-location of services, which increases agency cross-referral, the co-case management of families, the integration of services, and the accessibility of services to at-risk families.

2. Describe the relationship between this project and your first challenge, the project's history, and how it is being sustained. (300 word maximum)

In 1998, a group of Stockton leaders created the Partnership to promote policies and programs that enable service agencies and community leaders to work together to build strong, resourceful families and communities. These leaders began discussing how they could best meet that goal, travelling to cities across the country to look for new ideas on creating successful collaboration.

Together, the Partnership's leaders developed the following guiding principles: (1) We are "outcomes" focused; (2) We view families and the community as our partners; (3) We believe in the strength of families and communities; and (4) We recognize that partnership is essential to avoiding duplication of services, reaching isolated families, and providing comprehensive services to address families' complicated needs.

The Partnership concluded the best way to meet these principles was to establish family resource centers in high need areas. Funding was awarded from a Board of Corrections grant, and three centers have opened in Stockton since 2001. In 2002, 109 families, with a total of 594 children, participated in case management at the family resource centers. In 2003, the number of case-managed families jumped to 145. Overall, approximately 5,000 families utilize the resource centers in some way every year.

Currently, the Partnership is expanding its efforts to build family resource centers. These centers function as "one-stop shops," bringing a wide range of public and private services to underserved neighborhoods. This is part of a broader effort the Partnership is promoting, with critical support from the City, to relocate core County and City

services to convenient, accessible neighborhood locations, and to do a better job of filling service gaps, reducing service duplication, and coordinating services to needy children and families. As a result of our efforts, we see that many local organizations are now working together to use existing money in smarter ways.

3. Describe the partnerships and collaborations involved in the creation, development, and implementation of this project. (300 word maximum)

The Partnership's founding members are leaders of such organizations as United Way, the City of Stockton, San Joaquin County Health Care Services and Human Services, the Lao Family Community, and Healthy Beginnings & Women's Health, as well as schools, criminal justice agencies, neighborhoods, and the faith and business communities.

This original group was soon joined in the planning and development of the family resource centers by a variety of other agencies, including the Open Door House of Prayer, Claremont Elementary Healthy Start, APSARA, San Joaquin Delta College, and many others. The new partners worked collaboratively to develop the guiding principles and desired outcomes that would direct the work of the Partnership.

The family resource centers co-locate many social service programs that assist families in need. The Stockton Police Department works as a community liaison. San Joaquin County CalWorks and the Charterhouse Center for Families offer CalWorks Case Management. WorkNet provides job training. Health Access supplies a variety of health services. The Stockton Peacekeepers perform gang interventions. Lao Family School Readiness and the Child Abuse Prevention Council conduct perinatal home visits. And Fathers Matter gives fatherhood support and works to prevent teen pregnancy. Representatives from these co-located agencies comprise the integrated service teams. Resource center staff speak the languages of the families they serve, and are often leaders in their own communities – the same communities they serve through the resource centers.

Currently, over 150 agencies representing every facet of the community are involved in the Partnership's efforts at the family resource centers and in larger system integration efforts. Though many families seek assistance from the resource centers on their own, partner agencies refer many others to the centers for additional help. Each and every partner agency is an integral part of what makes the Partnership and the family resource centers successful.

4. Describe the qualitative and quantitative outcomes of this project in the last 3 years and explain how this project has been a success. (300 word maximum)

The Partnership seeks to promote employment, financial independence, and asset development. Every family seeking employment assistance is connected with either Worknet or CalWorks, thus providing them with the means to improve their employment position. In addition, for the past two years Partnership staff and partnering agencies have participated in the IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, and this year we expect to process over \$1 million in tax returns. Once the tax returns are completed, case managers show families how to leverage any additional income towards putting a down payment on a house or paying off debt.

The Partnership seeks children ready to learn when they enter kindergarten and ready to work or pursue higher education when they graduate from high school. At the end of the 2002-03 school year, unexcused absences for the 1,365 children receiving case management fell 25 percent overall, and as much as 75 percent at some schools.

The Partnership seeks healthy children and families who are readily able to obtain needed medical and dental care, including preventative care. In 2002, the "no-show" rate for health screenings and care among families served by the Partnership fell from 70 percent to 25 percent.

The Partnership seeks families who nurture their children and protect them from abuse and neglect. It also seeks to reduce the intergenerational damage caused by child abuse, neglect and domestic violence. In 2002, interventions by Child Protective Services dropped by 30 percent among families served by the Partnership.

The Partnership seeks safe and secure communities in which businesses want to invest and in which residents can use parks, schools, public transit, and shopping areas without fear of crime. For the highest risk children we serve – those currently involved in the juvenile justice system – arrest rates have dropped by over 50 percent.

Name the primary contact for the project. Provide name & title, organization, address, telephone, and e-mail address. (This person may be contacted to verify information.)

Angelina Campos-Rosenthal, Director of Family Resource Centers; Community Partnership for Families; PO Box 1569, Stockton, CA 95201; (209)608-0452; acampos@cpfsj.org

PROJECT TWO (Challenge #2)

1. Project summary, name and give a brief description. (150 word maximum)

The Downtown Stockton Alliance, a non-profit property-based improvement district, brought together approximately 300 property owners and 1,300 businesses to create a public/private partnership with downtown revitalization as its main goal. Funding for products and services are generated through tax assessments on downtown properties. The Alliance's mission is "To Promote, Develop and Maintain a Vibrant Downtown Stockton," and its five goals are:

- (1) Economic Development – Attract new downtown investors and businesses through an aggressive outreach marketing program.
 - (2) Marketing, Promotion and Special Events – Increase the destination appeal of downtown and bring local and outside visitors to downtown for enjoyable events and historic tours.
 - (3) Security – Create a safe and friendly downtown atmosphere by providing a daily roving hospitality and information guide program.
 - (4) Maintenance – Keep downtown streets and sidewalks clean.
 - (5) Public Policy – Act as a collective voice for downtown business and property owners.
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2. Describe the relationship between this project and your second challenge, the project's history, and how it is being sustained. (300 word maximum)

In 1997, downtown property owners successfully voted to create a downtown improvement district, and the resulting Downtown Stockton Alliance opened its doors in January 1998. The initial term of the district was five years, but since then the Alliance has been successfully approved for an additional five year term ending in 2007, and its boundaries have been expanded to 108 blocks. Current revenue is generated through Alliance-hosted events, as well as through tax assessments.

In its early years, the Alliance collected data on businesses, vacant buildings, leasable space, and buildings for sale, and assessed the requirements for business retention and attracting new investment. The Alliance collaborated with the City's Police and Fire Departments to address code enforcement violations, exacting compliance from poorly maintained and managed hotels.

Today, the Alliance works with the City of Stockton on their Façade Improvement Program to help market the downtown and support a facelift to building exteriors through forgivable federal grants. The City and the Alliance partner on the No Fees for Vacant Buildings program to encourage renovation of vacant buildings through the waiving of various fees. Downtown businesses can also take advantage of the City's Enterprise Zone benefits. The "Downtowner" newspaper, in addition to website material and a downtown video, helps market and inform the public about downtown businesses, real estate, and events. The Alliance has also been an active force in bringing fun and engaging events downtown in the evenings and on weekends. The Hospitality Guides program provides directions and information as well as escort service and historic tours. Guides are also the eyes and ears of the Police Department when it comes to misconduct in public, blight, and graffiti. Maintenance crews assist in

garbage and litter removal, the washing of sidewalks and business entryways, and the maintenance of downtown public recreation areas.

3. Describe the partnerships and collaborations involved in the creation, development, and implementation of this project. (300 word maximum)

In the 1990s, several downtown interest groups had conflicting visions for revitalization. To remedy this, in 1995 the Downtown Improvement District and the Redevelopment Agency brought the International Downtown Association to meet with approximately 150 downtown stakeholders. In a subsequent workshop, 20 key downtown leaders developed plans for a Downtown Stockton Alliance to supercede some of the smaller advocacy organizations and provide a united front on revitalization. Downtown property owners approved the Alliance two years later, and it began operating in 1998.

Today, the Alliance includes representation from downtown residents, business owners, property owners, non-profits, and community leaders of different backgrounds. Partnerships include the City, County, Cultural Heritage Board, Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce, State of California, Altamont Commuter Express, San Joaquin Regional Transit District, Port of Stockton, Stockton Unified School District, Cal State Stanislaus – Stockton, Stockton Redevelopment Commission, and ethnic and cultural organizations.

In 2001, the Alliance joined the City's Downtown Action Team (DAT), an organization of City and County officials and representatives from the development and business community working together to create an overall vision of downtown's future. The Alliance is very involved in DAT's strategic action plan, and chairs the Restaurant/Retail, Arts and Entertainment Committee, which produced a Retail Development Strategy to encourage such businesses to locate downtown. The Alliance also partners with San Joaquin Delta College Small Business Development in conducting workshops and seminars on downtown business retention.

The Alliance sits on the board of the downtown Tidewater Art Gallery, a non-profit artist's cooperative, and assists Stockton Unified School District by providing student internships at the Alliance and promoting student volunteerism for downtown events. The Alliance is the presenting sponsor for First Night Stockton, a family New Year's Eve celebration, and partners with the Downtown Farmers Market, a popular weekly event in the heart of downtown.

4. Describe the qualitative and quantitative outcomes of this project in the last 3 years and explain how this project has been a success. (300 word maximum)

Over the past three years, existing and new investors have taken advantage of City incentives, receiving 21 façade improvement grants worth \$528,730. Property sales assessments show a 45% increase in property values over three years. Downtown lease rates have risen 50%, and over 150 businesses have opened downtown, providing approximately 500 employment positions. Downtown vacancy by square footage has fallen 39.3%. In 2003, Forbes Magazine ranked Stockton's job growth 14th nationwide.

Downtown crime rates have dropped 22%. Hotels riddled with code enforcement violations and health hazards have been permanently closed and their residents carefully relocated. Residential neighborhoods are being renovated with affordable housing and new schools. Downtown is clean and safe, and over 300,000 residents and visitors come annually to events such as First Night Stockton, Ice Skating on the Delta, Fourth of July, Jazz on the Waterfront, the Taste of Downtown Restaurant Tour, the Downtown Farmers Market, and Downtown Historic Tours. Even more signature events will move downtown in the near future.

Weber Point, a ten-acre event center on the Delta, boasts a children's play area, an interactive water feature, and a shaded entertainment area, bringing an improved quality of life to downtown visitors. A former brownfields site has been resurrected as a beautiful outdoor plaza for families and visitors to enjoy. A \$1.9 million grant brought streetscape improvements to a ten-block section of Weber Avenue, a major downtown street. Trolleys are back on the streets and a new City facility, the Stewart Eberhardt Building, provides an 800-space parking deck that eases downtown's parking problem. The San Joaquin Regional Transit District broke ground in 2003 on a new Transit

Center in the heart of downtown, and December 2003 marked the opening of the City Centre Cinemas, a 16-screen movie theatre surrounded by retail that has created seven-day-a-week entertainment.

Name the primary contact for the project. Provide name & title, organization, address, telephone, and e-mail address. (This person may be contacted to verify information.)

Peggy Massey, Director of Business and Economic Development; Downtown Stockton Alliance; 306 E. Main Street, Suite 200 A, Stockton, CA 95202; (209) 464-5246; pmassey@downtownstockton.org

PROJECT THREE

As a commitment to America's Promise, the National Civic League has issued the Youth Initiative Challenge. We ask that at least one project from each All-America City applicant document ways in which the lives of children and youth have been tangibly improved.

1. Project summary, name and give a brief description. (150 word maximum)

Peacekeeper is an outreach program that works to reduce serious incidences of youth gun violence among Stockton's ethnically diverse gangs through direct work with youth (ages 13-18) who are either at risk or are already involved in a gang. Peacekeeper's four ethnically-representative outreach workers coordinate Peacekeeper/law enforcement forums, offer community and school site gang education presentations, educate teachers, administrators, and parents in gang awareness and prevention, transition kids out of gangs, serve as liaisons between gang-involved youth and law enforcement, advocate for youth during trial hearings, assist families and youth with finding jobs and learning job-related skills, assist in creating and running after school programs geared toward gang intervention and education, generate annual sports and entertainment events to showcase local talent, coordinate incentive field trips, serve as members of safe school committees, conduct weekly home visits in gang targeted areas, and provide crisis intervention at Parks and Recreation Department sites.

2. Describe the relationship between this project and the challenge it is addressing, the project's history, and how it is being sustained. (300 word maximum)

As recently as the mid- to late-1990s, Stockton was home to over 150 Latino, African-American, Caucasian, Hmong, Lao, Cambodian, and Vietnamese gangs. These gangs posed a serious, often deadly threat to members and to the community at large. More than 50 percent of all homicides in the city were gang related, with the number of gang deaths reaching 22 in 1997. That same year, seven young women, all of whom were innocent bystanders, were killed in the crossfire of gang-related shootings.

Responding to residents' outcry, the City and County used existing and grant funds to establish the Peacekeeper program, which took a new, carrot-and-stick approach to stemming the tide of serious gang violence and youth-related homicide. The youth outreach workers visited local parks, community organizations, schools, and special events, talking to teens and trying to fill the void between gang members and law enforcement. They gave at-risk youth (primarily probationers and parolees) a choice – take advantage of the Peacekeeper program and receive assistance and support in turning their lives around, or commit violent acts as part of a gang and risk death or incarceration. If the teens made the former choice, they and their families received referrals to community centers, job programs, after school programs, alcohol and drug treatment programs, and social services. If they made the

latter choice, they could count on the Peacekeeper program's partnerships with local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to make the threat of consequences credible.

Serious gang violence is much less prevalent today, thanks largely to the efforts of the Peacekeeper program. But gangs and gang violence remain an ever-present threat to the safety of our community. Stockton now has 93 documented gangs and 2,140 documented gang members, making the prevention of gang violence a continuing challenge in our community.

3. Describe the partnerships and collaborations involved in the creation, development, and implementation of this project. (300 word maximum)

Local community groups that had studied other cities' successful violence prevention efforts provided the impetus for Stockton's Peacekeeper program. These groups, including the Lao Family Community, the Vietnamese Volunteer Association, the Open Door House of Prayer, and the Council for the Spanish Speaking, played a major role in increasing services to youth at risk of gang and gun violence. They worked with the City Manager's Office, the County, and local law enforcement to build the ambitious gang outreach program now known as Peacekeeper.

The Peacekeeper program collaborates with the San Joaquin County Juvenile Justice Coordinator, the Stockton, Lodi, and Manteca Unified School Districts, the FBI, the ATF, the U.S. Department of Justice, the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office, the Stockton, Tracy, and Manteca Police Departments, the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Department, the California Youth Authority, and the San Joaquin County Probation Office in presenting at least tri-yearly school forums that target at-risk youth. These forums are a means for the Peacekeepers, schools, and law enforcement to warn students of the repercussions of gang violence, and to present them with an alternative. This message is reinforced on the street, as the collaborative efforts of local, county, state, and federal law enforcement bring police sweeps that lead to the arrest of dozens of members of the most violent gangs. These sweeps often make gang members reconsider their life path.

The Peacekeepers also work with the U.S. Labor Department Job Corps, San Joaquin County WorkNet, San Joaquin Delta College, and several adult school and GED programs to inspire youth about their future and to provide application assistance. And a number of Stockton's ethnic community organizations, including Lao Khmu, Lao Family Community, APSARA, and El Concilio, provide educational and translation services to the Peacekeepers when they work with at-risk youth from immigrant communities.

4. Describe the qualitative and quantitative outcomes of this project in the last 3 years and explain how this project has been a success. (300 word maximum)

The Peacekeeper program has worked with 2335 teens (case-managing 1117) over the past three school years (780 Hispanics, 520 Cambodians, 465 Hmong, 75 Laotians, 90 Vietnamese, 350 African-Americans, 45 Caucasians, and 10 East Indians/Pakistanis). Of those receiving case-management, 32% (357 individuals) are no longer affiliated with a gang, and that number jumps to 60% among Vietnamese and African-Americans, and 50% among East Indians/Pakistanis. The Peacekeepers helped 108 of these teens leave gangs in 2000-01, 115 in 2001-02, and 134 in 2002-03. In the 2000-01 school year, 36% of case-managed Hmongs were no longer in a gang, in 2001-02 70% of Laotians were removed, and in 2002-03 31% of Hispanics and 34% of Cambodians were also successfully extricated.

Within the Peacekeepers' caseload over the last three years, 25% have received their high school diploma or GED, 20% have found jobs, 15% have started college or a vocational school, and 9% have been successfully discharged from probation. In addition, 32 teens joined the military, and another 10 entered the Job Corps. In the past three years only 10 juveniles have been arrested as homicide suspects, and Stockton has seen only about four gang related homicides per year (down from 22 in 1997). In that time, no juveniles have been gang-related homicide victims.

Former gang member David Soeun is a perfect exemplar of the Peacekeepers' success: "When I met [Peacekeeper] Tracy Barries, my life perspective changed. I was on a road that leads to death. Tracy took me out of the street life, and made me something that I knew I could be." Today, David has graduated from high school, holds down a full-time job, and is taking community college courses as he pursues a singing career – a dream that may come true thanks to the dedication and support the Peacekeeper program provided.

Name the primary contact for the project. Provide name & title, organization, address, telephone, and e-mail address. (This person may be contacted to verify information.)

Tracy Barries, Program Coordinator; Youth Outreach Services; 6 E. Lindsay Street, Stockton, CA 95202; (209) 403-7503; Tracy.Barries@ci.stockton.ca.us

Part III Civic Infrastructure

Describe your community. Using the four major sections of the National Civic League's *The Civic Index, Second Edition* (see www.ncl.org for more information), examine your community's civic infrastructure and civic capacity and describe how your community *lives* each of the answers to each of the following questions. Please include real examples of how your community has demonstrated its strengths and faced its challenges. The roman numerals correspond to parts of *The Civic Index, Second Edition*. Also see the application instructions for this section.

Add lines as needed for your responses

I. What is our community vision for its future? (300 word maximum)

(1) Prevent and reduce crime: The Stockton Police Department will continue to strengthen ties with individual citizens, neighborhood groups, and business owners through its Community Policing program, which assigns officers to five heavily-populated, ethnically diverse districts in order to address crime-related problems through preventative measures.

(2) Promote economic development: The Stockton Hotel and the Fox Theatre, historic landmarks in Downtown Stockton, will reopen in 2004. The completion of the Waterfront development project will follow in 2005, and will include a 150-room hotel, a 6,500 to 9,000 seat arena, 10,000 to 15,000 square feet of meeting rooms and retail development, and a new stadium for the Stockton Ports minor league baseball team. The City and the San Joaquin Partnership are working together to promote economic development throughout the city with the opening of several retail power centers that bring jobs to our residents and increased prosperity to our neighborhoods.

(3) Provide quality education and youth empowerment opportunities: Stockton's youth will have a safe, fun afterschool destination later this year with the opening of a \$2.2 million teen center that was designed and will be staffed by the young members of our Youth Advisory Commission. Stockton's Children's Museum, which was developed in the aftermath of the 1989 school shooting, is planning to expand its programming.

(4) Sponsor sustainable and regionally-considerate long-term growth: The General Plan Action Team, which consists of 15 members representing a variety of community interests, is currently focused on a Smart Growth program to help alleviate the pressure of Stockton's burgeoning population.

(5) Create a brighter future for our neediest residents: Hundreds of organizations will continue to work together to stage numerous health fairs and clinics that provide free or low-cost medical services and education to thousands of uninsured residents, many of them immigrants, in Stockton and surrounding communities.

II. How are we fulfilling the new roles for community governance?

II. (a). What is the extent and nature of community member participation in community improvement efforts? (300 word maximum)

Stockton provides many opportunities for citizens from all ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds to actively improve their community. The Neighborhood Action Team was created to improve the quality of life for Stockton communities through neighborhood-based interventions and services. NAT gives citizens a voice, as residents, City staff and non-profit organizations partner to identify and meet the individual needs of Stockton's neighborhoods. Several citizen-driven neighborhood associations have worked successfully with NAT. Residents of the Carrington Circle neighborhood faced a serious blight problem, and working with NAT, were able to secure heightened code enforcement action in the area. They cleaned up their neighborhood, held a street fair for area residents, and are currently working on a community garden. The Weston Ranch Organizing Committee holds monthly meetings to provide information to its residents and to inform NAT of its current concerns. Other proactive neighborhood associations include the Grant Area Neighborhood Action Team, St. George's Neighborhood Betterment Committee, the Eighth Street Neighborhood Watch, and the Columbus Park Neighborhood Watch.

People and Congregations Together (PACT) is a multi-racial, multi-issue democratic organization that acts as a voice for low- and moderate-income families. PACT helps congregations build their own local organizations that will address community issues in a constructive, positive way. Among other projects, PACT led the charge to protect and expand Stockton's after-school Homework Center grant program.

Volunteerism is a major force in Stockton. The Public Art Advisory Committee is staffed by local artists, critics, and experts, overseeing and managing all of the City's public art projects. Volunteers in Police Service (V.I.P.S.) are over-40 adults trained to be additional eyes and ears for the Stockton Police Department, enhancing vital crime prevention programs and increasing community awareness. And there are over 30 other City and community programs and events that receive regular volunteers from among our citizens.

II. (b). What role does government play in community-wide decision-making and how do they contribute to improving the community? (300 word maximum)

Stockton's City Manager has created a series of Action Teams to address the community's identified needs. Action Team members come from a variety of City departments, outside agencies, and the community, pooling their resources to expedite problem solving and avoid duplicating services.

For example, the Airport Corridor Action Team (ACT) was created after area residents asked for the City's assistance in revitalizing their community. ACT is currently working to develop affordable housing, address blight, code enforcement, and public safety issues, coordinate activities for a new Neighborhood Service Center, improve infrastructure, and create economic development in the area.

The General Plan Action Team is currently developing a new general plan employing Smart Growth and economic development principles, and has used a series of ethnically and socio-economically representative community workshops to identify residents' vision for the future of Stockton.

The Magnolia/Midtown Action Team (MMAT) works to revitalize the midtown area by assisting the development of University Park, encouraging home ownership and the creation of live/work units, and emphasizing the area's historic significance. MMAT coordinates all City and collaborative efforts in the area, working with the Community Health Action Team, the Stockton Neighborhood Action Group, the Magnolia Advisory Group, and the Midtown Project Area Committee.

Other Action Teams focus on Youth and Education, Budget Efficiency, the Channel District, and Downtown.

In addition to Action Teams, the City Council established the Community Improvement and Crime Prevention Committee (CICPC) to explore crime reduction methods. CICPC includes Council members and law enforcement personnel from the City, the County, and the Probation and District Attorney's offices, and addresses community members' crime-related concerns. As part of its Juvenile Justice Task Force, CICPC created the COPS program, a reality-oriented course for first time juvenile auto theft offenders that boasts a 19-percent-lower recidivism rate among its participants than among non-participants.

II. (c). What role does the non-profit sector play in community-wide decision-making and how do they contribute to improving the community? (300 word maximum)

Stockton's 1,317 non-profit organizations have much to contribute to our community. The Women's Center networks with 36 public and private agencies to provide domestic violence and sexual assault services, as well as emergency shelter for battered women and their children. Their services are free, confidential, and available in English, Spanish, and Southeast Asian languages.

San Joaquin A+ enhances educational opportunities for youth, with over 1,000 volunteers at 150 school sites and hundreds of partners from every facet of the community. Among its many endeavors, San Joaquin A+'s Kindergarten Book Bag Program stands out. The program provides book bags to over 250 kindergarten classrooms, to be taken home each night with a book that the students and their families can read together – totalling 180 books per year.

The City transferred ownership of Sierra Vista Community Center to the Sierra Vista Housing Authority, a non-profit neighborhood organization. The Housing Authority is now responsible for providing educational, recreational, and health-related opportunities to its own residents. In addition, ownership of the Sousa Pool was transferred from the City to the Boys and Girls Club of Stockton in July 2003. As the City has faced budget cuts, our community non-profits have been there to take the reigns.

There are also a number of organizations in Stockton that help our non-profits achieve their goals. The Stockton Chamber of Commerce Community Based Organization Network meets monthly, providing programs that inform and benefit non-profits. The Stockton Asparagus Festival is run entirely by volunteers, with the non-profits they represent receiving the proceeds. In addition to being a great community event, the Festival is also San Joaquin County's largest organized charitable fundraiser. In 2003 alone, the Festival donated \$208,841 to the over 120 non-profits that cumulatively put in 26,000 hours of work. To date, the Festival has donated \$2.5 million.

II. (d). What role does business play in community-wide decision-making and how do they contribute to improving the community? (300 word maximum)

Stockton's chambers of commerce play a vital role in the community. The Business Education Alliance (BEA) is a public-private partnership between the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce and area schools that strives to prepare students for the workplace. BEA offers tours of local manufacturing and industrial facilities, a workforce preparedness course, career expos, job fairs, mock interviews, and a program that matches students with training and part- or full-time jobs. 2003 marked BEA's 8th Annual Principal for a Day event, bringing business and community leaders to shadow 60 school principals in order to learn more about County schools and the challenges educators face. Our African-American Chamber of Commerce is the driving force behind Stockton's annual Juneteenth celebration, just as our Mexican-American Chamber of Commerce is instrumental in the Cinco de Mayo Parade. These three chambers, in addition to the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, sit on the

Mayor's Racial Harmony and Fairness Task Force, and the Greater Stockton Chamber also sits on the Downtown and General Plan Action Teams.

Individual businesses also have much to contribute. Kaiser Permanente's Neighbors in Health is an annual event providing free health services, screenings, education, and referrals for low- or no-cost follow-up care to the medically uninsured. In 2003, more than 500 physicians, staff, and community members volunteered to provide culturally-sensitive services to residents of nine area cities, resulting in over 14,000 visits. Kaiser further expressed its dedication to Stockton in 2002 when 70 managers from the Kaiser Member Services Call Center spent a day trimming, pulling weeds, raking, and painting to spruce up the Pixie Woods Amusement Park. Washington Mutual, Stockton's fifth largest employer, provides employees with paid leave to volunteer in the community through its Committed Active Neighbor program, in addition to sponsoring events such as Ice on the Delta and Stockton Waterfest.

III. How do we work together as a community?

III. (a). How does our community recognize and celebrate its diversity? (300 word maximum)

Stockton's diversity is ever-present in its street names and architecture, and in the faces and heritage of its citizens, 57 percent of whom represent minorities.

Throughout the year ethnic festivals reflect Stockton's position as a microcosm of the world's peoples. The city plays host to the Grecian Food Festival, Festa Italiana, Jewish Food Festival, International Food Faire, Filipino Barrio Festival, Oktoberfest, Italian Street Painting, and Japanese Obon Festival, as well as to celebrations of the Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and Hmong New Years, Cinco de Mayo, Black History Month, Juneteenth, Kwanzaa, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The Stockton Certified Farmers Market caters to a predominantly Southeast Asian clientele of 30,000 a year, with 55 fruit and vegetable, six seafood, and four live poultry vendors. Local Jews, Christians, and Muslims come together to honor their common heritage with the annual Celebration of Abraham, and children are invited to learn about international dress, food, and customs in the Small World Village during Family Day at the Park.

The City recognizes diversity through the Mayor's Racial Harmony and Fairness Task Force, which consists of a diverse group of community leaders who have opened a much-needed dialogue to improve race relations in Stockton. As a commitment to racial harmony, the Task Force will host its first multicultural diversity celebration, "Hands Across Stockton," in September. The City also maintains strong relationships with Sister Cities in five countries. In addition, many non-profits work with other community organizations and with the City to ensure that Stocktonians of all different backgrounds have every opportunity for a rewarding life, including the Council for the Spanish Speaking, the Lao Family Council, Lao Khmu, the Women's Center of San Joaquin County, the Stockton Women's Network, the Stockton branch of the NAACP, and the African-American, Asian-American, and Mexican-American Chambers of Commerce.

III. (b). How does our community work with neighboring communities to address shared challenges? Is there a shared regional vision? (300 word maximum)

In March 2003, Stockton hosted the 2nd Annual Central California Mayors Conference, an event that brought together over 75 area mayors, city officials, community members, and state and federal legislators to address issues of critical importance to the future of the San Joaquin Valley, including local gangs, air quality, job creation, and the California State budget.

The Great Valley Center (GVC) is a non-profit organization working to improve the quality of life in the Central Valley. Stockton's mayor collaborates with GVC and other cities, counties, businesses and community groups on Operation Clean Air, a program begun by the mayor of Fresno to develop a five-year Clean Air Action Plan for clearing the Valley's heavily polluted skies.

The Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library is a joint venture of the City and County. In 2002 it introduced “One Book, One Stockton” an event in which all members of the community are invited to read and discuss a single book that focusses on a particular ethnic group. In 2003, the library joined Lodi Public Library to expand the program to “One Book, One San Joaquin” so that residents throughout the county could join in the fun.

The City of Stockton works closely with the Manteca and Lodi Unified School Districts, each of which is based in a neighboring city but oversees a few schools within the Stockton city limits. In addition to regular problem-solving sessions between Stockton City Council members, City staff, school board members, and superintendents, the City of Stockton co-runs a community center gymnasium with Manteca Unified and collaborates with Lodi Unified in overseeing a private charter school and a library that will open later this year.

Stockton’s San Joaquin Delta College has a satellite campus in Tracy, while CSU Stanislaus, located in Turlock, has a satellite campus here in Stockton.

IV. How does our community strengthen its ability to solve problems? (300 word maximum)

Our community believes building the leadership skills of today’s youth is crucial to solving tomorrow’s problems. The Mayor’s Youth Advisory Commission is a coalition of 29 teen commissioners from area high schools who meet monthly to plan activities and events in the community and act as advisors to the City Council on youth issues. Commissioners hold an annual teen conference that attracts hundreds of youth from every ethnic, religious, and socio-economic background, produce a Youth Television (YTV) show that reaches 55,000 households, write articles in our local newspaper’s YOUTHINK section, volunteer at non-profit and public organizations, and sit on numerous City boards and commissions. The Commissioners also requested, designed, raised money for, and will staff a \$2.2 million teen center to open later this year. Most importantly, these teens are empowering themselves and opening communication channels among youth, local government, and the community.

The University of the Pacific’s Harold S. Jacoby Center for Community and Regional Studies brings local community leaders into the classroom and places students in non-profit and government internships in Stockton and the Central Valley in an effort to foster civic engagement by Pacific students and faculty.

Leadership Stockton, a Chamber of Commerce program in its 24th year, puts 26 residents annually through an 11-month program grounding them in leadership strategies and urban issues. Its 500+ graduates include men and women from white, black, Latino, Japanese, Chinese, Lao, Sikh, Native American, and Filipino backgrounds, and at least 80 graduates have served as presidents/chairs of Stockton boards and commissions.

San Joaquin County Superior Court’s Youth and Adult Leadership Academies work to create community leaders and build bridges between the Court and various ethnic, immigrant, and disabled communities. 159 citizens have graduated from the two academies, and now act as liaisons between the Court and their own communities.

End of Application

See **www.ncl.org/aac/** or the application instructions for detailed application instructions and sample applications from previous All-America City Winners.

